

The Global Knowledge Economy and African Workers in It (SmartAfrica)

This seminar discusses the prospects for African workers in an era of rapid global change and asks what African governments and their development partners can do to help African workers enter and shape the global knowledge economy. Core questions are: How can we classify African economies, and what roles can African workers play in the world of the 2020s? How does the global debate on artificial intelligence and job automation translate to Africa? Is catch-up development bound to happen or could we be moving toward greater geographical inequality and an eventual 'useless class' in the global South? What role do platforms and internet connectivity play for inclusive growth in the coming decade? Can a globalized services economy emerge as a driver for African job creation?

Student eligibility & output: this course is offered (i) as part of BA PoWi Aufbaumodul 7 (i.e., for those who also sit Prof Hartmann's lecture), and (ii) as Wahlpflicht (or other).

- i. Aufbaumodul 7 students hold a 15-minute presentation (graded pass/fail) and write a 20-page term paper (Hausarbeit).
- ii. Wahlpflicht students and others (e.g., exchange students) hold a 15-minute presentation (graded 1-6).

Term papers: Aufbaumodul 7 students write a 20-page term paper (Hausarbeit, i.e., 6,000-word text, excluding references and annexes). Term papers are chosen from the range of topics discussed throughout the course (facilitated by consultations with the lecturer). A detailed outline of the seminar paper needs to be submitted by 23 July 2021. Students who choose to hand in the full paper by 23 July 2021 will receive comments within two weeks and the option to revise and resubmit to improve their grade. Either way, the final deadline for seminar papers is 30 September 2021 ([last day of the semester](#)).

Presentations: all students hold a 15-minute presentation. Presentation slides must be completed and emailed to the lecturer latest 7 days before the date of the presentation. The lecturer will comment within days, suggesting revisions. Please pick a presentation by entering your name [here](#).

Short Essays: Wahlpflicht students who wish *not* to hold a presentation may instead write a 5-8-page short essay. An outline of the short essay needs to be submitted by 18 June 2021. Students who choose to hand in the short essay in full by 18 June 2021 will receive comments within one week and the option to revise and resubmit to improve their grade. Either way, the final deadline for short essays is 23 July 2021 ([last day of the lecture period](#)).

Course medium: this is an online course, conducted exclusively via **Zoom** – [here](#), the passcode is [REDACTED]. All assigned course material can be accessed via **Moodle** – [here](#). Please respect authors' intellectual property (the usual copy right stipulations apply). If you have not already done so, please take this short [survey](#) to establish whether this seminar will be complemented by a social media group. Attendance for this course is not mandatory, but I will need to keep track of who attended when. Please fill this [attendance form](#) regularly.

Seminar Sessions begin at 14:00 sharp (s.t); the book symbol marks the mandatory reading.

16 April, 14:00-15:30 Data for Diagnosing African Economies

Students will be familiar with handling the Network Readiness Index. We will discuss your individualized homework questions and then the overall structure of the course.

- 📖 Dutta, S., & Lavin, B. (2020) The Network Readiness Index 2020: Accelerating Digital Transformation in a post-COVID Global Economy, Appendix I-II, pp. 283-285 & 289-300; and Individualized questions (see email).

30 April, 14:00-17:30 Strategies for African Development

Labour market assessments and industrial policy frameworks. In the last session, all students gained an understanding for what types of socio-economic data are collected and aggregated by global indices in order to be comparable across countries. In preparation for this session, students have read Rodrik (2008) to begin to understand how such data is used in country strategies. Four presentations then each introduce different frameworks for interpreting and using data for input into strategy development.

- 📖 Rodrik, D. (2008) A Practical Approach to Formulating Growth Strategies, in Stiglitz, J. E. & Serra, N. (eds.) *The Washington Consensus Reconsidered: Towards a New Global Governance*, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 356-366.

Presentation 1: Harvard's Diagnostics & GIZ's ELMA. Hausmann et al.'s (2008) "Growth Diagnostics" theory stresses that, instead of long list of reforms that all developing countries need to undergo, every country is unique and faces particular 'most binding constraints' that need to be identified and rectified in order to get an economy on the right track. This theory, developed at Harvard, is the foundation for GIZ's Employment and Labour Market Analysis (ELMA) toolkit, which was first developed by Schwegler-Rohmeis et al (2013) in Kyrgyzstan, then shaped into concrete guidelines for labour market analyses by Mummert (2014), and applied among other places in Rwanda (see Weinmann 2018). *Literature for Presentation 1:*

- Hausmann, R., Rodrik, D., & Velasco, A. (2008) Growth Diagnostics, in Stiglitz, J.E. & Serra, N. (eds.) *The Washington Consensus Reconsidered: Towards a New Global Governance*, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 324-355.
- Schwegler-Rohmeis, W., Mummert, A., & Jarck, K., (2013) Study "Labour Market and Employment Policy in the Kyrgyz Republic", Identifying constraints and options for employment development, GIZ, Bishkek.
- Mummert, A. (2014) Guidelines for an Employment and Labour Market Analysis (ELMA), GIZ, Eschborn & Bonn.
- Weinmann, C.D. (2018) Employment and Labour Market Analysis Rwanda, GIZ, Kigali.

Presentation 2: Bonn & Duisburg's Systemic Competitiveness and GIZ & UNIDO's EqIP Toolbox. Esser et al.'s (1996) "Systemic Competitiveness" theory stresses that economies need to function well at all levels, be it the macro-level (e.g. fiscal & monetary policy), the micro-level (firms and clusters of firms), or the meta-level (culture). For this, the meso-level is often most important as it connects firms with the state and development partners. This theory is associated with and applied by members of Bonn's German Development Institute (DIE), and Duisburg's INEF and Meso-Partners (Mayer-Stamer 2001, 2009). It is the foundation for GIZ/UNIDO's Industrial Policy Equip (see Conceptual framework, Toolbox, and Crash Course) which focuses on diagnosing and developing a competitive manufacturing sector. Among other places, this has been implemented in Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, and Malawi. *Literature for Presentation 2:*

- Esser, K., Hillebrand, W., Messner, D., & Meyer-Stamer, J. (1996) Chapter 4 “Meso-Level Determinants,” in *Systemic Competitiveness: New Governance Patterns for Industrial Development*, London: Frank Cass, pp 63-93.
- Meyer-Stamer, J. (2001) “Was ist Meso? Analyseraster, Benchmarking-Tool und Handlungsrahmen” INEF Report 55 / 2001, Duisburg.
- GIZ & UNIDO (2015) EquIP Toolbox, Enhancing the Quality of Industrial Policies Introduction & Crash Course.
- GIZ & UNIDO (2015) Tool 5: Industrial Employment and Poverty Alleviation, in EquIP Toolbox, Enhancing the Quality of Industrial Policies.

Presentation 3: The World Bank & Peking University’s New Structural Economics & Growth Identification and Facilitation Framework. Justin Lin’s (2012) “New Structural Economics” theory stresses that countries need build on their strongest factor endowments in order to make their latent comparative advantages into manifest comparative advantages. For this, countries can look to emulate successfully growing countries with similar factor endowments but about twice the GDP per capita. The theory, developed at the World Bank, entails a Growth Identification and Facilitation Framework, which has been implemented, among other places, in Nigeria. *Literature for Presentation 3:*

- Lin, J. Y. (2012). New Structural Economics: A Framework for Rethinking Development, in Lin, J. Y. (ed.) *New structural economics: a framework for rethinking development*, Washington DC: World Bank, pp. 11-47
- Lin, J. Y. & Chang, H.-J. (2012). Debate: Should Industrial Policy in Developing Countries Conform to Comparative Advantage or Defy It? In Lin, J. Y. (ed.) *New structural economics: a framework for rethinking development*, Washington DC: World Bank, pp. 133-140.
- Lin, J. Y. & Monga, C. (2012). Growth Identification and Facilitation: The Role of the State in the Dynamics of Structural Change, in Lin, J. Y. (ed.) *New structural economics: a framework for rethinking development*, Washington DC: World Bank, pp. 141-180.
- Treichel, V. (2012). Applying the Growth Identification and Facilitation Framework: The Case of Nigeria, in Lin, J. Y. (ed.) *New structural economics: a framework for rethinking development*, Washington DC: World Bank, pp. 215-258.

Presentation 4: Oxford’s Digital Pathways & the Pathways for Prosperity Commission’s Digital Economy Kit. The Pathway for Prosperity Commission’s (2018) “Digital Pathways” theory stresses that, amidst the ongoing digital revolution, developing countries can prepare their economies by becoming ‘digital ready’ along five essential pathways: agriculture, manufacturing, services, the informal economy, and spatial connectivity. Developed at Oxford, this framework comes with a Digital Economy Kit, which has been implemented, among other places, in Ethiopia. *Literature for Presentation 4:*

- Pathways for Prosperity Commission. (2018). *Charting pathways for inclusive growth: From paralysis to preparation.* Oxford: University of Oxford.
- Pathways for Prosperity Commission. (2020) *The Digital Economy Kit: Harnessing digital technologies for inclusive growth.*
- Tony Blair Institute & Pathways for Prosperity Commission (2019) *Detailed Empirical Data And Analysis: To be read in support of DBI-P4P Ethiopia digital Transformation Diagnostics, Preliminary findings.*
- Republic of Ethiopia (2020) *Digital Ethiopia 2025: A Digital Strategy for Ethiopia Inclusive Prosperity*, Addis Ababa: Government of Ethiopia Printer, pp. 21-48.

Presentation 5: Most of the information that underpins the above strategies has been collected by national statistics bureaus and has then been given the stamp of approval by being republished as ‘facts’ by international organisations such as the World Bank the IMF or the WEF. We often hear that we need to be careful when taking statistics at face value. But what exactly does that mean? How reliable are economic statistics? Morten Jerven’s

(2013) book “Poor Numbers” explores this question. Hence, this fifth presentation consist of a book review. *Literature for Presentation 4:*

- Jerven, M. (2013) *Poor Numbers: How we are misled by African development statistics and what to do about it*. Ithaka & London: Cornell University Press.

7 May, 14:00-17:30 Anticipating the Future of Work

In the last session, the Pathways framework pronounced that developing countries need not be ‘paralysed’ by the vast technological changes that are predicted to be imminent. But what exactly are those changes? We now take a step back to examine views on how new technologies are already affecting global labour markets and what is expected to happen in years to come. All students will have read Harari’s (2018) lucid warnings on “work.” A maximum of six presentations will each juxtapose different view on the future of work (more pessimistic vs. more optimistic). Lest we deem good texts from 2014 ‘outdated,’ a final presentation will give us a peak into some historic literature on ‘the future of work.’

📖 Harari, Y. N. (2018) Chapter 2, “Work,” in *21 lessons for the 21st century*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House, pp. 30-50.

Presentation 6: Brynjolfsson et al. vs. Bessen: Pioneers of two narratives. Presentation Literature:

- Brynjolfsson, E., & McAfee, A. (2014) Chapter 2, “The skills of the new machines: Technology races ahead”, In. *The Second Machine Age: work, progress, and prosperity in a time of brilliant technologies*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.
- Brynjolfsson, E., & McAfee, A. (2015). Will humans go the way of horses? Labor in the Second Machine Age. *Foreign Affairs*, 94(4), 8-14.
- Brynjolfsson, E., & Mitchell, T. (2017). What can machine learning do? Workforce implications: Profound change is coming, but roles for humans remain. *Science* 358(6370), pp. 1530-1534.
- Bessen, J. (2015) Chapter 7 “Scarce Skills, not Scarce Jobs,” in *Learning by Doing: The Real Connection Between Innovation, Wages, and Wealth*, New Haven & London: Yale University Press, pp. 101-135.
- Bessen, J. (2019) Automation and jobs: when technology boosts employment, in *Economic Policy* 34(100), pp. 589-626.
- Frank, M. R., Autor, D., Bessen, J. E., Brynjolfsson, E., Cebrian, M., Deming, D. J., ... Rahwan, I. (2019). Towards understanding the impact of artificial intelligence on labor. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(14), 6531-6539.

Presentation 7: Ford and Reese vs. Autor and Agrawal et al: From code to neural networks – some deep thoughts. Presentation literature:

- Ford, M. (2015). Chapter 4 “White Collar Jobs at Risk,” in *Rise of the robots: Technology and the threat of a jobless future*. London, UK: Hachette.
- Reese, B. (2018). Chapter 9 “Will Robots Take All Our Jobs?” and Chapter 10 “Are There Robot-Proof Jobs?” in *The Fourth Age: Smart robots, conscious computers, and the future of humanity*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster.
- Autor, D. H. (2015). Why are there still so many jobs? The history and future of workplace automation. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 29(3), 3-30.
- Agrawal, A., Gans, J., & Goldfarb, A. (2018) Chapter 14 “Job Redesign” and Chapter 19 “Beyond Business,” in *Prediction Machines*. New York: Harvard Business Review Press.

Presentation 8: Frey/Osborne vs. World Bank: The predictors – all is new, or same as it ever was? Presentation literature:

- Frey, C. B., & Osborne, M. A. (2017). The future of employment: How susceptible are jobs to computerisation? *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 114, 254-280.
- Frey, C. B. (2019). Chapter 12 “Artificial Intelligence,” in *The technology trap: Capital, labor, and power in the age of automation*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- World Bank. (2019). Chapter 1 “the Changing Nature of Work”, in *World development report 2019: The changing nature of work*. Washington, DC: World Bank, pp. 17-34.

Presentation 9: West vs. Frank et al: Towards UBI or co-bots? Presentation literature:

- West, D. M. (2018). Chapter 4 “Rethinking Work,” in *The future of work: Robots, AI, and automation*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.
- Frank, M., Roehrig, P., & Pring, B. (2017) Chapter 9 “Enhance,” in *What to do when machines do everything: How to get ahead in a world of AI, algorithms, bots, and big data*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. pp. 133-152.

Presentation 10: Susskind vs. Friedman and Williams: Of Lumps and fallacies. Presentation literature:

- Susskind, D. (2020) Chapter 5 “Task Encroachment,” Chapter 6 “Frictional Technological Unemployment,” and Chapter 7 “Structural Technological Unemployment,” in *A World Without Work*. New York, NY: Henry Holt & Co.
- Friedman, T. L. (2016). Chapter 8 “Turning AI into IA”, in *Thank you for being late: An optimist's guide to thriving in the Age of Accelerations*. New York: Farrar Straus & Giroux.
- Williams, C. (2021) Riding High, A Special Report on the Future of Work, in *The Economist* (10 April 2021).

Presentation 11: Russel and Wadhwa vs. Diamandis/Kotler and O'Reilly: Visions from the Valley. Presentation Literature:

- Russell, S. (2019) Chapter 4.3 “Eliminating Work As We Know It,” in *Human compatible: Artificial intelligence and the problem of control*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House.
- Wadhwa, V., & Salkever, A. (2017). *Driver in the driverless car: How our technological choices will create the future*. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, pp. 40-44, 160-164.
- Diamandis, P. & Kotler, S. (2020) Chapter 13 “Threats and Solutions,” and Chapter 14 “Five Great Migrations,” In *The future is faster than you think: How converging technologies are transforming business, industries, and our lives*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.
- O'Reilly, T. (2017) Chapter 14 “We Don't Have to Run Out of Jobs,” Chapter 15, “Don't Replace People, Augment Them,” and Chapter 16, “Work on Stuff That Matters,” in *WTF? What's the future and why it's up to us*. London, UK: Random House.

Presentation 12: Keynes, Vonnegut, NYT: A fresh breath of history and literature. Presentation literature:

- Keynes, J. M. (2010 [1931]) “Economic Possibilities for our Grandchildren (1930),” In *Essays in Persuasion*, New York: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 321-332.
- New York Times. (23 March 1964). Guaranteed income asked for all, employed or not. *The New York Times*.
- Vonnegut, K. (1952) *Player Piano*. New York, NY: Rosetta Books.

21 May, 14:00-17:30 Which Sectors Drive African Economies?

Amidst the digital transformation, African economies still consist of agriculture, manufacturing, and various types of services. Before our future sessions will focus on digital services exports, today, we take an economy-wide lens to examine the pathways for making an African economy ‘digital ready’ for the coming decade.

📖 Pathways for Prosperity Commission. (2018). *Charting pathways for inclusive growth: From paralysis to preparation*. Oxford: University of Oxford.

Presentation 13: From Agriculture to manufacturing: pushing or pulling that elevator?
Presentation literature:

- Rodrik, D. (2013) Unconditional convergence in manufacturing. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128(1), 165-204.
- Mellor, J. W. (2017) Measuring the impact of agricultural growth on economic transformation. In J. W. Mellor (Ed.), *Agricultural development and economic transformation: Promoting growth with poverty reduction* (pp. 29-46). London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Hornbeck, R., & Naidu, S. (2014) When the levee breaks: Black migration and economic development in the American South. *American Economic Review*, 104(3), 963-990.
- McMillan, M., Rodrik, D., & Verduzco-Gallo, Í. (2014) Globalization, structural change, and productivity growth, with an update on Africa. *World Development*, 63(C), 11-32.
- Diao, X., McMillan, M., & Wangwe, S. (2018) Agricultural Labour Productivity and Industrialisation: Lessons for Africa, *Journal of African Economies* 27(1), pp. 28-65.

Presentation 14: Premature deindustrialization and consumption cities. Presentation literature:

- Rodrik, D. (2016) Premature deindustrialization. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 21(1), 1-33.
- Gollin, D., Jedwab, R., & Vollrath, D. (2016). Urbanization with and without structural transformation. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 21(1), 35-70.

Presentation 15: Towards a future of services? Presentation literature:

- Ghani, E., & O’Connell, S. D. (2014). Can service be a growth escalator in low-income countries? World Bank Policy Research Paper Policy Research Working Paper 6971.
- Gollin, D. 2018. *Structural transformation and growth without industrialization* (Pathways for Prosperity Commission Background Paper No. 2). Oxford: Oxford University.
- Rodrik, D. (2018). *New technologies, global value chains, and the developing economies*. Oxford: University of Oxford, Pathways for Prosperity Commission.

Presentation 16: Manufacturing after all? Presentation literature:

- Naude, W. (2018). *Structural transformation in Africa: New technologies, resurgent entrepreneurship and the revival of manufacturing*, MERIT Working Papers 045.
- Kruse H., Mensah, E., Sen, K., & de Vries, G. (2021) A manufacturing renaissance? Industrialization trends in the developing world, WIDER Working Paper 2021/28.
- Economist (20 Mar 2021) “African industry is doing better than previously thought: A well-worn path to prosperity is still open.”

Presentation 17: Manufacturing or Services amidst the Fourth Industrial Revolution?
Presentation literature:

- Hallward-Driemeier, M., & Nayyar, G. (2018). *Trouble in the making? The future of manufacturing-led development*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

- Altenburg, T., Chen, X., Lütkenhorst, W., Staritz, C., Whitfield, L. (2020). *Exporting out of China or out of Africa? Automation versus relocation in the global clothing industry* (Discussion Paper 1/2020). Bonn: German Development Institute (DIE).
- Whitfield, L., Staritz, C., Morris, M. (2020). Global Value Chain-based Industrialization in the Twentyfirst Century? Industrial policy, upgrading and localization in Ethiopia’s apparel export sector. *Development and Change* 51(4), 1018-1043.
- Nayyar, G., Cruz, M., & Zhu, L. (2018). *Does premature deindustrialization matter? The role of manufacturing versus services in development* (Policy Research Working Paper No. 8596). Washington, DC: World Bank.

11 June, 14:00-17:30 Can Globalization Spur African Services Exports?

Theoretically, trade in services should hold great promise for Africa. We examine the arguments for exports in general, and the arguments for exports in services in particular.

- 📖 Baldwin, R. (2019) Chapter 5 “Telemigration and the Globotics Transformation,” in *The globotics upheaval: Globalization, robotics and the future of work*. London: Hachette U, pp. 115-146.

Presentation 18: Why does exporting matter? Presentation literature:

- Grossman, G. M., & Helpman, E. (1991). Trade, knowledge spillovers, and growth. *European Economic Review*, 35(2), 517-526.
- Hausmann, R. (2015). The import of exports. *Project Syndicate*, 26 November.
- Hausmann, R., Hidalgo, C. A., Bustos, S., Coscia, M., Simoes, A., & Yildirim, M. A. (2013). *The atlas of economic complexity: Mapping paths to prosperity*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Hausmann, R., Hwang, J., & Rodrik, D. (2007). What you export matters. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 12(1), 1-25.

Presentation 19: The long-predicted chance for services exporting via global offshoring. Presentation literature:

- Friedman, T. L. (2007) “Flattner#6: Offshoring” in *The world is flat: A brief history of the twenty-first century, Release 3.0*. New York, NY: Picador / Farrar, Straus & Giroux, pp. 137-166.
- Friedman, T. L. (4 April 2007). The African connection. *New York Times*.
- Blinder, A. (2006). Offshoring: The next Industrial Revolution? *Foreign Affairs* 85(2), 113-128.
- Blinder, A (2009). How many US jobs might be offshorable? *World Economics*, 10(2), 41-78.
- Blinder, A. S., & Krueger, A. B. (2013). Alternative measures of offshorability: A survey approach. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 31(2), S97-S128.
- Dossani, R., & M. Kenney. (2007). The Next Wave of Globalization: Relocating Service Provision to India, *World Development* 35(5), 772-791.
- Dossani, R., & M. Kenney. (2009). Service Provision for the Global Economy: the Evolving Indian Experience, *Review of Policy Research* 26(1-2), 77-104.

25 June, 14:00-17:30 What Digital Services Does Africa Export Today?

Empirically, what digital services exports actually exist in Africa and what is feasible? We discuss the evidence and ideas for growth of this sector in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 📖 Melia, E. (2020) African Jobs in the Digital Era. Export Options with a Focus on Online Labour, Bonn: DIE.

Presentation 20: The new promise of digital services exports. Presentation literature:

- Kuek, S. C., Paradi-Guilford, C., Fayomi, T., Imaizumi, S., & Ipeirotis, P. (2015). *The global opportunity in online outsourcing* (Report No. ACS14228). Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Janah, L. (2017). Chapter 2 “Aid: What works, what doesn’t, and why” in *Give work: Reversing poverty one job at a time*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House.
- Lehdonvirta, V., Kässi, O., Hjorth, I., Barnard, H., & Graham, M. (2019). The global platform economy: A new offshoring institution enabling emerging-economy microproviders. *Journal of Management*, 45(2), 567-599.
- Braesemann, F., Lehdonvirta, V., & Kässi, O. (2020) ICTs and the urban-rural divide: can online labour platforms bridge the gap? *Information, Communication & Society*.
- The Economist (10 April 2021) Love them or hate them, virtual meetings are here to stay: New research shows the costs and benefits of remote work.

Presentation 21: Real growth of digital services exports? Empirical fog. Presentation literature:

- Mann, L., & Graham, M. (2016). The domestic turn: Business process outsourcing and the growing automation of Kenyan organisations. *The Journal of Development Studies* 52(4), 530-548.
- Kleibert, J., & Mann, L. (2020) Capturing Value amidst Constant Global Restructuring? Information-Technology-Enabled Services in India, the Philippines and Kenya, *The European Journal of Development Research* 32, 1057-1079.
- McKinsey (2020) Driving economic recovery in South Africa’s BPO industry <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/middle-east-and-africa/driving-economic-recovery-in-south-africas-bpo-industry>.
- Kässi, O., & Lehdonvirta, V. (2018). Online labour index: Measuring the online gig economy for policy and research. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 137(C), 241-248.
- Stephany, F., Dunn, M., Sawyer, S., & Lehdonvirta, V. (2020) Distancing Bonus Or Downscaling Loss? The Changing Livelihood of Us Online Workers in Times of COVID-19, *Journal of Economic and Human Geography* 111(3), 561-573, <https://doi.org/10.1111/tesg.12455>
- Kässi, O., Lehdonvirta, V., & Stephany, F., (2021) How Many Online Workers are there in the World? A Data-Driven Assessment (March 23, 2021). SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3810843>.

9 July, 14:00-17:30 Toward the Knowledge Economy or Toward Misery?

In the previous session, Melia and others were enthusiastic about the prospects of digital services exports from Africa. For today, students will have read Leamer’s devastating but compelling account of the ‘gravity model.’ On this basis, we discuss whether breaking into the global knowledge economy is actually possible. Other contributions lament that online work may not catapult African service providers into the global knowledge economy but confine them to mundane and soon-to-be automated click-work that pays pennies. If the work is exploitative and the skills acquired are of little value, what alternatives exist? We end the course with three book reviews that question some fundamental assumptions.

- 📖 Leamer, E. E. (2007) A Flat World, a Level Playing Field, a Small World After All, or None of the Above? A Review of Thomas L Friedman's *The World is Flat*, *Journal of Economic Literature* 45(1), pp. 83-126.

Presentation 22: No digital bridges in sight? The stickiness of geography and culture. Presentation literature:

- Hausmann, R. (20 January 2016) Should Business Travel Be Obsolete? *Project Syndicate*.
- Mok, D., Wellman, B., & Carrasco, J. (2010). Does distance matter in the Age of the Internet? *Urban Studies* 47(13), 2747-2783.

- Pant, A., & Ramachandran, J. (2012). Legitimacy beyond borders: Indian software services firms in the United States, 1984 to 2004. *Global Strategy Journal* 2, 224-243.
- Leamer, E. E. & Storper, M. (2001) The Economic Geography of the Internet Age, *Journal of International Business Studies* 32(4), pp. 641-665.
- Glaeser, E. L. (2011) Chapter 1 “What do they make in Bangalore?” and Chapter 5 “Is London a Luxury Resort?” in *Triumph of the City: How our greatest invention makes us richer, smarter, greener, healthier, and happier*. New York, NY: Penguin.
- Keese, C. (2014) “Analoge Arbeitskultur: Wer nicht am Ort ist, spielt keine Rolle” in *Silicon Valley: was aus dem mächtigsten Tal der Welt auf uns zukommt*.

Presentation 23: Back to empirics: increasing divide between lousy and lovely work?

Presentation literature:

- Autor, D. H., Levy, F., & Murnane, R. J. (2003). The skill content of recent technological change: An empirical exploration. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 118(4), 1279-1333.
- Goos, M., & Manning, A. (2007). Lousy and lovely jobs: The rising polarization of work in Britain. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 89(1), 118-133.
- Acemoglu, D., & Autor, D. (2011). Chapter 12: Skills, tasks and technologies: Implications for employment and earnings. In D. Card & O. Ashenfelter (Eds.), *Handbook of labor economics* (Vol. 4, pp. 1043-1171). Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company.
- Acemoglu, D., & Restrepo, P. (2019). Automation and new tasks: How technology displaces and reinstates labor. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 33(2), 3-30.

Presentation 24: How good are online jobs really? Fortifying lousy jobs in the Global South and lovely jobs in the North? Presentation literature:

- Graham, M., Hjorth, I., & Lehdonvirta, V. (2017a). Digital labour and development: Impacts of global digital labour platforms and the gig economy on worker livelihoods. *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, 23(2), 135-162.
- Gray, M. L., & Suri, S. (2019). *Ghost work: How to stop Silicon Valley from building a new global underclass*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Wood, A. J., Graham, M., Lehdonvirta, V., & Hjorth, I. (2019). Networked but commodified: The (dis)embeddedness of digital labour in the gig economy. *Sociology*, 53(5), 931-950.
- Roberts, S. (2018) Chapter 5 “Modern Heroes: Moderating in Manila,” in *Behind the Screen: Content Moderation in the Shadows of Social Media*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press.

Presentation 25: Book review: world-ruling elites and their 80h work weeks? Presentation literature:

- Markovitz, D. (2019) *The Meritocracy Trap: How America's Foundational Myth Feeds Inequality, Dismantles the Middle Class, and Devours the Elite*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House.

Presentation 26: book review – is merit not fair? What to do once thought through?

Presentation literature:

- Sandel, M. (2020) *The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good?* London, UK: Penguin.

Presentation 27: book review: Community Trumps the utility/rights hubris of elites?

Presentation literature:

- Collier, P. (2018) *The Future of Capitalism: Facing the New Anxieties*. London, UK: Penguin.

16 July, 14:00-15:30 Wrap-up, feedback, outlook.

A note on writing term papers.

Writing your term papers and eventually your bachelor's thesis will most likely be the most difficult parts of your studies. Many aspiring writers are caught off guard by this. It might help to know that you are not alone in this struggle. Few people can sit down to write for a few hours per day, and hardly any of them would tell you that getting there was easy for them. Every writer needs to find their own way, but here are some tools that might help you find yours:

- Pressfield, S. (2002) *The War of Art: Break Through the Blocks and Win Your Inner Creative Battle*. New York, NY: Warner Books.
- Pressfield, S. (2011) *Do The Work!: Overcome Resistance and get out of your own way*. North Egremont, MA: Black Irish Entertainment LLC
- Newport, C. (2015) *Deep Work: Rules for focused success in a distracted world*. New York, NY: Grand Central Publishing.
- Currey, M. (2013) *Daily Rituals: How Artists Work*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Currey, M. (2019) *Daily Rituals: Women at Work*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.